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## LEVITIRACETAM - Full Version

**CPN:** 63009974

### GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

Seizures are an involuntary behavior that can be classified into several categories including generalized (grand mal), partial, or psychomotor. Seizures can be due to an underlying medical condition, toxin or a brain abnormality. Epilepsy is a term for a repeated seizure disorder in which a cause has not been identified. **Levetiracetam** is an anti-seizure medication which is available only by prescription from a licensed veterinarian in the form of a tablet, extended-release tablet, oral solution and an injectable solution.

### WHAT IS THIS DRUG?

- An anti-seizure or anticonvulsant medication
- Often requires a frequent dosing schedule (every 8 hours)
- May be used alone or with other medications (bromides, phenobarbital)
- Given by mouth or by injection

### REASONS FOR PRESCRIBING:

- To assist with the management of seizures
- Often used when other seizure medications are not tolerated
- Often used as an adjunct when other medications are not controlling seizure activity

### ANIMAL PRECAUTIONS:

- This medication is used off-label in cats and dogs and should be administered only when and as prescribed by a licensed veterinarian
- **Use of this medication in any other species should be in consultation with a veterinarian**
- Use of this prescribed medication in animals with any of the following conditions should be limited to those who are under the supervision of a veterinarian:
  - Existing kidney disease, as dosing may need to be adjusted
- Safety has not been established in:

- Pregnant or nursing animals
- Use with caution in animals that require full alertness when performing - guide dogs, police dogs, search and rescue dogs
- Animals with a known hypersensitivity or allergy to this or related products should not be given this medication

## **DIRECTIONS:**

Read and follow the prescription label carefully.

Give the exact amount prescribed and only as often as directed.

Discuss with your veterinarian if this medication is to be given with food.

Do not crush or allow your pet to chew an extended-release tablet.

Give this medication for as long as your veterinarian directs. Do not skip doses or stop giving the medication without consulting your veterinarian. Missed doses reduce the effectiveness of therapy.

Baseline blood work may be recommended to assess your pet's general health before starting this medication. Periodic blood work to monitor its effects on the body and to ensure therapeutic levels may be advised if long term therapy is necessary. Dose adjustments may be made based upon these results and an assessment of how your cat or dog is responding clinically.

If you have been instructed to discontinue this medication, it should be withdrawn slowly.

This medication will take effect quickly, in about 1 to 2 hours, but its effects may not be visibly noticeable for a few days.

Call ahead for refills.

Ideally, give this medication at the same time(s) daily.

## **WHAT IF A DOSE IS MISSED?**

If a dose is missed, give it as soon as you can. If it is time already for the next dose, skip the missed dose and go back to the normal schedule. Do not give two doses at the same time.

## **WHAT TO TELL/ASK YOUR VETERINARIAN BEFORE GIVING THIS MEDICATION?**

Talk to your veterinarian about:

- The benefits of keeping a seizure log
- When your pet will need to be rechecked
- What tests may need to be performed prior to and during treatment with this drug
- What are the safety concerns when using this product in different species
- What are the risks and benefits of using this drug

Tell your veterinarian about:

- If your pet has experienced side effects on other drugs/products
- If your pet has experienced digestive upset now or ever
- If your pet has experienced liver or kidney disease now or ever
- If your pet has experienced any other medical problems or allergies now or ever
- All medicines and supplements that you are giving your pet or plan to give your pet, including those you can get without a prescription. Your veterinarian may want to check that all of your pet's medications can be given together.
- If your pet is pregnant, nursing or if you plan to breed your pet

#### STORAGE AND WARNINGS:

**Levetiracetam** should be stored in a childproof container in a cool, dark place at room temperature away from heat and direct light. Do not store this product in the bathroom, near the kitchen sink or anyplace damp as it may break down.

This medication may have reduced efficacy over time

If your veterinarian has recommended to discontinue, this medication should be withdrawn slowly.

You should contact your veterinarian if your pet has a prolonged seizure (greater than 5 minutes) or if they have had several seizures in a 24 hour period.

Do not crush or allow your pet to chew an extended-release tablet.

Keep this and all medication out of reach of children and pets.

Call your physician immediately if you accidentally take this product.

#### POTENTIAL SIDE EFFECTS:

- This medication can affect the central nervous system causing an upset stomach, sedation, lethargy, reduced appetite and difficulty with coordination
- If these symptoms persist or you notice anything else unusual, contact your veterinarian
- This short-acting medication should stop working within 24 hours, although effects may last longer in pets with liver or kidney disease

#### CAN THIS DRUG BE GIVEN WITH OTHER MEDICATIONS?

- Yes, but possible interactions may occur when giving **Levetiracetam** in conjunction with NSAIDs and phenobarbital
- Drugs other than those listed may also interact with **Levetiracetam**
- Do not give new food or medications without first talking to your veterinarian
- If your pet experiences any unusual reactions when taking multiple medications, contact your veterinarian

## WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I KNOW OF OR SUSPECT THERE HAS BEEN AN OVERDOSE?

Contact your veterinarian immediately if your pet receives more than the prescribed amount.

## WHAT ELSE SHOULD I KNOW?

Notify your veterinarian if your animal's condition does not improve or worsens despite this treatment.

As with all prescribed medicines, **Levetiracetam** should only be given to the pet for which it was prescribed. It should be given only for the condition for which it was prescribed, at the prescribed dose, as directed by your veterinarian.

This is just a summary of information about **Levetiracetam**. If you have any questions or concerns about **Levetiracetam** or the condition for which it was prescribed, please contact your veterinarian.

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